

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 4498

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, DA
SUBJECT: TASS CRITICIZES DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON
"NEUTRON BOMB"

REF: COPENHAGEN 4407 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

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1. ALL MAJOR DANISH NEWS MEDIA YESTERDAY QUOTED SHARP
TASS COMMENTARY ON FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN'S PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON THE "NEUTRON BOMB." (REFTEL) APPARENTLY TASS
INACCURATELY CLAIMED THAT ANDERSEN HAD SAID THAT THE DEPLOY-
MENT OF NEUTRON BOMBS IN WESTERN EUROPE IS "SOLELY AN
INTERNAL AMERICAN AFFAIR". RECOGNIZING THE DANISH OP-
POSITION TO THE POSITIONING OF NUCLEAR ARMS ON DANISH

TERRITORY, TASS REPORTEDLY WARNED/ "THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT DENMARK CAN ESCAPE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF (NEUTRON BOMBS) IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES." TASS ALSO CHARACTERIZED ANDERSEN'S STATEMENT AS "DEVIATING FROM THE WIDESPREAD AND RESOLUTE PROTESTS AGAINST WASHINGTON'S PLANS THAT CAN NOW BE HEARD WITH INCREASING FORCE IN EUROPE."

2. TODAY'S DANISH PRESS CARRIED ANDERSEN'S REPUDIATION OF THE TASS VERSION OF HIS STATEMENT. "I DID NOT SAY THE STATIONING OF THE NEUTRON BOMB IS SOLELY AN AMERICAN AFFAIR. I SAID THE AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOMB IS PURELY AN INTERNAL AFFAIR ON WHICH WE HAVE NO INFLUENCE. LIKEWISE WE HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODERN WEAPON BY THE SOVIET UNION," BUT, HE REITERATED, "IF THE US OFFERS THE BOMB TO NATO-ALLIES, WE MUST THEN RECONSIDER THE SITUATION, BECAUSE IN THAT CASE IT BECOMES A NATO-AFFAIR".

3. SOCIALIST PEOPLES PART (INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST) CHAIRMAN GERT PETERSEN, WHOSE QUESTION PROVOKED ANDERSEN'S ORIGINAL STATEMENT ON THE "BOMB", WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH HIS INITIAL RESPONSE. PETERSEN HAS NOW ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO STATE FORMALLY WHETHER IT REGARDS DEVELOPMENT OF THE "BOMB" AS GOOD OR BAD FOR CURRENT DENTE EFFORTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.
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4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SURE HOW THIS WILL UNFOLD. ANDERSEN'S ORIGINAL RESPONSE WAS CLEARLY OF THE "CROSS-THAT-BRIDGE-LATER" NATURE. ALTHOUGH THERE IS WIDESPREAD DANISH POPULAR ESISTANCE TO THE IDEA OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THIS HAS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NOT BEEN AN IMPORTANT STUMBLING BLOCK POSED BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IN NATO NUCLEAR CIRCLES. MOREOVER, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, A FOREIGN MINISTRY POL/MIL OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT THE DANISH FOREIGN AFFAIRS/ SECURITY BUREAUCRACY HOLDS NO PARTICULAR PHILOSOPHICAL OR ETHICAL HANGUPS VIS-A-VIS THE "NEUTRON BOMB".
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